

***de maximis, inc.***

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April 16, 2018

**VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL**

Ms. Diane Salkie  
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 19th Floor  
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 131 – March 2018  
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
(RI/FS)  
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

**de maximis, inc.** is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

**(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.**

**Meetings/Conference Calls**

- On March 1, the CPG participated in the EPA's CSTAG stakeholder session and presented its proposal for an interim remedy for the upper 9 miles.
- On March 8, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) consultants and CPG consultants held a teleconference to briefly discuss the mass balances for the Feasibility Study (FS) numeric models.
- On March 15, Region 2, CPG and Region 2 and CPG consultants held a teleconference to discuss FS modeling.
- On March 19, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss Upper 9-mile FS.
- On March 28, Region 2, CPG and Region 2 and CPG consultants held a teleconference to discuss the Bioaccumulation Model calibration.

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### Correspondence

- On March 2, CPG submitted Responses to Comments (RTCs) for Appendices H and K through O for the revised Draft 17-mile Remedial Investigation (RI) Report to Region 2.
- On March 2, CPG provided Region 2 with the flow rate information at Dundee Dam.
- On March 5, CPG thanked Region 2 for the opportunity to participate in the Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG) meeting on February 28 and requested a copy of the sign-in sheet from the meeting and for copies of written materials provided by the other stakeholders present at the meeting.
- On March 6, Region 2 provided CPG a copy of the sign-in sheet and comments from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Passaic River Community Advisory Group (CAG) from the February 28 CSTAG meeting and suggested CPG contact the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or Department of the Interior (DOI) for comments from NOAA and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for their comments.
- On March 6, Region 2 consultants and CPG consultants exchanged emails regarding an update on the mass balance portion of the FS model and a potential teleconference to discuss the FS model.
- On March 7, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the current status of the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report components.
- On March 7, Region 2 consultants and CPG consultants exchanged emails to schedule a teleconference on March 8 to discuss the FS model.
- On March 15, CPG delivered the February Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On March 19, 20 and 22, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails regarding scheduling a teleconference to discuss the Bioaccumulation Model calibration status.
- On March 20, CPG indicated to Region 2 that there are RTCs being prepared to address and clarify some of NJDEP's comments provided for the March 1 CSTAG meeting.
- On March 22, Region 2 provided CPG comments on a list of figures and tables in the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report.
- On March 22, CPG provided RTCs to Region 2 to address and clarify some of NJDEP's comments provided for the March 1 CSTAG meeting.
- On March 22, CPG notified Region 2 that the comments on the figures and tables in the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report had been forwarded to CPG's consultant to address.
- On March 22, Region 2 provided CPG contact information to obtain the February 13, 2018 comments on the CSTAG meeting from NOAA and USFWS and provided information on the status of Region 2's "11 Sediment Principles" Memorandum to CSTAG.
- On March 23, CPG and NOAA exchanged emails regarding NOAA February 13, 2018 comments on the CSTAG meeting.
- On March 23, CPG requested Region 2 share CPG's responses to NJDEP's February 13, 2018 comments to the CSTAG meeting.
- On March 23, CPG and NOAA exchanged emails regarding the joint Federal Trustee letter provided by NOAA to Region 2 regarding comments on the CSTAG meeting.

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- On March 28, CPG provided a copy of the Bioaccumulation Model Calibration Update presentation to Region 2.
- On March 29, CPG uploaded revised Section 5 figures, Section 8 tables, and Sections 5, 8, and 9 of the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report to Region 2's SharePoint site.

**Work**

- CPG continued work to address Region 2's comments on the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report and Model Appendices.
- CPG continued work on calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT model.
- CPG continued work on revision of the LPR Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG continued work on revision of Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG prepared proposed Upper 9-mile RAOs and RAs.
- CPG responded to Region 2 comments and questions on the Upper 9-mile Plan.
- CPG conducted a stakeholder presentation for the March 1 CSTAG meeting.

**(b) Results of Sampling and Tests**

- None.

**(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion**

- CPG will continue work on the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report and Model Appendices in response to Region 2 comments. The Executive Summary, Summary, Conclusions, and References Sections of the revised Draft RI Report and Appendix P (Bioaccumulation Modeling) have been partially revised, but additional collaboration with Region 2 is required to complete their revision.
- CPG will continue calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT model and continue to work with HDR to complete the calibration.
- CPG will continue revising the LPR Bioaccumulation Model pursuant to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue work on Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG will continue preliminary identifications of remedial alternatives for the upper 9-miles.

**(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.**

- **Feasibility Study (FS)** – Region 2 and the CPG are currently discussing refocus of the FS to the upper 9 miles and accelerating its completion and met via teleconference on January 4, March 8, 15 and 29, 2018 and a meeting on February 9, 2018.

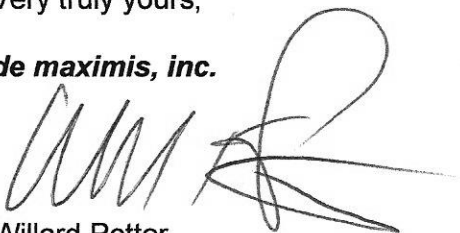
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- **Other Documents** - There are number of reports and technical memos (both original and revised submissions) that have been submitted to Region since 2011 that the CPG is awaiting either approval or Region 2's comments. These reports include:
  1. Upstream Reference Benthic Data Report – submitted August 2013
  2. Background Sediment Data Report – submitted October 2013

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

**de maximis, inc.**



Willard Potter  
CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel  
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel  
Lisa Baron, USACE  
Clay Stern, USFWS  
Reyhan Mehran, NOAA  
Jay Nickerson, NJDEP  
Beth Franklin, USACOE  
Laura Kelmar, AECOM